

REMARKS

Summary of Amendments Made

The claims have been amended such that claims 1, 3 and 6-14 are now pending. This represents the state of the claims in the parent application prior to the final examiner's amendment request wherein the limitation of claim 2 was inserted into claim 1.

In order to expedite prosecution, this request was granted. However, applicants commented in the Interview Summary Form that the citation of a new reference during post-allowance was not appreciated by the applicants especially when the prior art cited (U.S. 4,045,589) appeared to be even further removed from the prior art which had been used during prosecution of the parent application.

Terminal Disclaimer

If the examiner is satisfied with the contents of the application, she is invited to telephone the applicants' representative below in order to obtain a terminal disclaimer over the parent application.

Closing

Applicants also believe that this application is in condition for allowance. However, should any issue(s) of a minor nature remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at telephone number (212) 808-0700 so that the issue(s) might be promptly resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
Norris, McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A.

By: Howard C. Lee
Howard C. Lee
Reg. No. 48,104

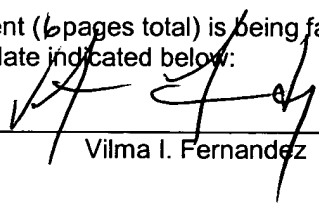
220 East 42nd Street
30th Floor
New York, New York 10017
(212) 808-0700

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the foregoing Preliminary Amendment (~~6~~ pages total) is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below:

Date: **25 July 2003**

By: _____


Vilma I. Fernandez